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# IMPLEMENTATION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 50/227

## Joint United Nations/Bretton Woods institutions review

## Note by the Secretary-General

1. The present is an information note on the background of the joint United Nations/Bretton Woods institutions (BWIs) review as laid down in the relevant General Assembly and Economic and Social Council resolutions, the activities undertaken by the United Nations system to respond to these resolutions, the current status of the joint review and recommendations for future action.

## Background

2. The Assembly, by paragraph 86 of Annex I to its resolution 50/227, called for an exploratory review to assess mechanisms, programmes and relationships at the field, headquarters and intergovernmental levels, with a view to identifying areas in which communication, cooperation and coordination could be improved. The review has also been mentioned in Council resolution 1996/43, in which the Council indicated that it looked forward to receiving the report and accompanying recommendations resulting from the exploratory review. The joint exploratory review is currently conducted by the United Nations (led by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Administrator in collaboration with the United Nations departments, funds and programmes), in collaboration with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank.

Actions undertaken

3. On 21 November 1996, the Secretary-General wrote to the Executive Heads of the World Bank and IMF that the report for the Council resulting from the "exploratory review" called for by the Assembly should be future-oriented and should capture the full extent of the close policy and programme cooperation being established between the Bretton Woods institutions and the United Nations in the various areas covered by Assembly resolution 50/227. The Secretary-General proposed that a joint working group between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions be established for this purpose and asked the UNDP Administrator in his then capacity as Special Coordinator, to assist him in coordinating the United Nations contribution to the exercise.

4. Both IMF (12 December 1996) and the World Bank (3 December 1996) responded positively to the Secretary-General's letter and appointed liaison officers that would coordinate the contributions of IMF and the World Bank to the review.

5. Following a series of consultations with IMF and the World Bank, the UNDP Division for Policy Advisory Services at the request of the Administrator, prepared the elements for the terms of reference for the review, outlining the expected outputs and specific points of focus for the review. The elements for the terms of reference were subsequently endorsed by the Senior Officials of the United Nations and proposed to IMF and the World Bank (21 February 1997).

6. The initial response from IMF (28 February 1997) indicated that it had already taken the necessary measures to prepare a report which could, if so desired, be submitted to the Council in July 1997 reviewing the state of the relationship of IMF with the United Nations (see E/1997/78). The IMF paper also suggested ways in which collaboration with the United Nations could be strengthened further. In preparation of this report, IMF circulated a questionnaire to gather further information on the incidence of collaboration at the field level. IMF further indicated that the United Nations and the World Bank were welcome to incorporate IMF report into a joint or single report, as long as IMF was given the opportunity to comment on the final draft.

7. The World Bank (4 April) reiterated its full cooperation in the review endeavour, while expressing the hope that the review could be kept concise and of mutual benefit to United Nations partners. The World Bank suggested that the review be focused on successful examples of collaboration that could be replicated elsewhere. The World Bank further suggested that the review exercise should follow a short and simple route and result in a limited, concise and forward-looking report.

8. Further consultations between the United Nations and the World Bank are planned and it is expected that a joint review will be finalized in time for the report to be submitted to the Council at its substantive session in 1998. It should be noted, however, that the present reform efforts underway at the World Bank, IMF and within individual United Nations agencies and of the

United Nations system as a whole add to the complexity of this exercise. This must be taken into account by all participants.

Available information inputs

Questionnaire on United Nations/Bretton Woods institutions relationships in the field

9. On 22 August 1996, a questionnaire was sent out to United Nations resident coordinators in 115 UNDP country offices to assess their perception of United Nations/BWI relationships at the field level. The response was quick and comprehensive with 104 responses and 101 questionnaires returned. The analysis of the returned questionnaires resulted in the following conclusions:

(a) In general, the relationship between resident coordinators and World Bank and IMF representatives is a good one. However, even in those countries where the relationship is good, resident coordinators would like to be kept informed of BWI activities on a more regular basis;

(b) Although smaller in numbers, some resident coordinators pointed to difficult relationships with the BWI due to lack of information, collaboration, etc. A special effort to improve those relationships is required. Those resident coordinators who do not have local BWI counterparts, expressed the desire that visiting missions should regularly contact the resident coordinator;

(c) The responses reflect a variety of experiences regarding cost-sharing and/or co-financing with the World Bank and IMF. While several resident coordinators cite successful examples, others point to the difficulties due to legislation and procedures. This could be settled by sharing the success stories.

10. These three points can be considered for further examination in the review.

Report of the United Nations Senior Officials working group on strengthening collaboration between the United Nations system and the Bretton Woods institutions

11. In June 1995, the United Nations Senior Officials meeting decided to establish a working group on strengthening collaboration between the United Nations system and the Bretton Woods institutions. The work of the Working Group resulted, in December 1996, in a paper that identified five priority areas to be developed for intensified cooperation with the Bretton Woods institutions:

(a) Collaboration between the United Nations and the World Bank and IMF in countries facing special situations requiring major reconstruction, rehabilitation and re-establishment of normal economic activity;

(b) Exchange of information and data in key areas for policy analysis;

(c) Exchange of information on planned research and policy studies on key development issues with a view to avoiding unnecessary duplication of effort, promoting greater collaboration in areas of common mandates and mutual interest, facilitating greater use of each organization's outputs as potential inputs into the research and studies undertaken by other organizations;

(d) Strengthening country level cooperation and policy coordination, enhancing collaboration and exchange of information in relation to the formulation of Country Strategy Notes, Common Country Assessments, Policy Framework Papers (tri-partite: World Bank, IMF, host country), and Country Assistance Papers (World Bank);

(e) Reporting to respective and relevant intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions.

12. The joint exploratory review would explore how concrete immediate steps can be taken in the above five areas.

World Bank presentation to the Council

13. The World Bank has canvassed each of its relevant vice-presidencies and departments regarding cooperation with the United Nations. This information is being compiled into a database of activities which will be analysed and distilled for presentation to the Council during its July 1997 session. The World Bank will continue to incorporate new information so as to monitor trends and developing patterns over time, and to contribute to the joint review. The World Bank has indicated that the results will be shared with its partners on a continuing basis.

IMF report on Fund-United Nations collaboration

14. As noted above, this report will be made available, as an addendum to this note, to the Council.

Cooperation at the intergovernmental level

15. Over the years, there has been a continuing and active participation of IMF and the World Bank in the meetings of the principal organs of the United Nations in the economic and social fields particularly at the Council and the main Committees of the General Assembly; as well as in subsidiary bodies and expert group meetings. A major innovation was introduced since 1992, with the one day policy dialogue of the Council during its high-level segment with the heads of multilateral financial and trade institutions. In 1996, the Council took steps, inter alia, to ensure better and joint preparation of the policy dialogue. There is also growing cooperation between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions in preparing reports for United Nations intergovernmental bodies in the economic and social area.

16. In contrast to the United Nations, the Bretton Woods institutions have only two key intergovernmental decision-making committees (executive bodies), the Interim Committee of IMF, and the Joint Ministerial Committee of the Board of Governors of the Bank and the Fund on the Transfer of Real Resources to Developing Countries (Development Committee). The view has, however, been

expressed that the United Nations has not had sufficient access to nor adequate participation in meetings of these bodies. There has also been substantive debate at intergovernmental level between these institutions: the United Nations bodies regularly address policy issues related to the work of the Bretton Woods institutions, and the Development Committee in 1995 examined the follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development.

17. The joint exploratory review could draw a balance of the reciprocal participation of the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions in each others' meetings, as well as the substantive aspects of their dialogue. It could examine ways of improving the effectiveness of this participation in the context of the relationship agreements between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions.

Recommendations for future action

18. It is proposed that the review be completed in time for a report to be submitted to the Council at its substantive session of 1998. The review should contain a section in which practicable concrete action-oriented proposals will be made which can be implemented quickly without the establishment of new mechanisms to improve relationships at the field, headquarters and intergovernmental levels, and should attempt to focus on the following specific points:

(a) Implementation of the results of United Nations conferences;

(b) Collection and dissemination of data analysis and reports;

(c) Use of existing resources in the transition from emergency relief to rehabilitation and development;

(d) Provision of technical assistance operations in the field;

(e) Intergovernmental and Secretariat consultations;

(f) Policy dialogues.

19. The resolution calls for the review to determine how the respective institutions can improve their own efforts and effectively complement one another's efforts, particularly in the context of the priorities established by their respective member States. In doing this consideration should be given to make full ue of the new opportunities presented as a result of the reform and reorganization processes being carried out by the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions.

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REPORTS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF
SUBSIDIARY BODIES: HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS

Letter dated 11 July 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the President of the Economic and Social Council

It was with great surprise that we noted that the Economic and Social Council allowed the circulation (under agenda item 7 (d) of the substantive session) of a letter by the Permanent Representative of Turkey, with enclosures from an illegal secessionist entity. The so-called "TRNC" has been condemned by the United Nations and is not recognized by any country, except Turkey, in defiance of Security Council resolutions and in particular Council resolution 550 (1984), which calls upon all States and international organizations "not to facilitate or in any way assist the aforesaid secessionist entity".

The well-known Turkish propaganda has long been discredited.

I would like, however, to remind that the Security Council by its resolution 1092 (1996) deplored the brutal killings of Greek Cypriots last year pointing out "in particular the unnecessary and disproportionate use of force by the Turkish/Turkish Cypriot side".

Unfortunately, almost a year after these crimes, no investigation has been conducted by the Turkish side and no one was brought to justice. On the contrary, one of the main suspected perpetrators has been elevated into so-called "Minister of Agriculture" of the pseudostate, while the collaboration with extremist organizations like the Grey Wolves (involved, inter alia, in the attempt against the Pope) is further consolidated.

The Turkish disregard for the norms and rules of international law is also evidenced by the change of the geographical names of our towns and villages in the occupied part of Cyprus. The use of Turkish names is just another attempt for the Turkification of the occupied territory.

Concerning the allegations about the purchase of weapons by the Republic of Cyprus, I would like to point out that this is necessitated by the continuing Turkish military occupation of part of our territory, the presence of 35,000 Turkish soldiers and the constant upgrading of their equipment and hardware. It is for this reason that the Secretary-General, in a series of reports to the Security Council, underlined that the occupied part of Cyprus remains one of the most militarized areas in the world (see S/1996/411 of 7 June 1996).

The Government of Cyprus does not believe in a military solution that will have disastrous consequences for all Cypriots, Greeks and Turks alike.

In this sense, the President of the Republic of Cyprus, H.E. Mr. Glafcos Clerides, put forward in December 1993 a proposal for the demilitarization of Cyprus. This proposal provides for the disbanding of the Cyprus National Guard, the handing over of its weapons and equipment to UNFICYP, the maintenance of a police force at its present numerical strength, armed only with light weapons, the establishment of a fund, under the United Nations, from savings thus effected to be used for the needs of the whole population of the island after the solution of the problem. In return, the proposal provides for the withdrawal of the Turkish occupation troops and the disbanding of the Turkish Cypriot armed forces. It also envisages the stationing of a multinational force, in which both Turkey and Greece could participate, which will have the mandate, under a Security Council resolution, to intervene in case of breaches of peace or suspicions for the creation of paramilitary forces in the island and in order to guarantee the agreement.

This proposal is still on the table and we honestly believe that it represents a genuine answer to the security concerns of all Cypriots. Its implementation will also lead to stability in our sensitive region.

Regarding the treatment of the Turkish Cypriots living in the government-controlled areas of the Republic, the very fact that they chose to escape from the "paradise" the occupation forces created for them in order to live with their Greek Cypriot compatriots speaks for itself. Consequently, any attempt to contest the report of the Secretary-General stating that the Turkish Cypriots "are accorded the same legal rights and privileges as Greek Cypriots" is, to say the least, ludicrous.

It is obvious that the Turkish selective quotations are intended to divert attention from the continuous violations of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of the people of Cyprus by Turkey and, in particular, of the few Greek Cypriots and Maronites living in the occupied territory. The Secretary-General stated in his report to the Commission on Human Rights that "these communities were the object of very severe restrictions, which curtail the exercise of many basic freedoms and have the effect of ensuring that, inexorably with the passage of time, those communities will cease to exist in the northern part of the island" (see E/CN.4/1996/54, para. 14).

One glaring example of the Turkish atrocities against the enclaved persons is the well-known ordeal of a Greek Cypriot teacher, Mrs. Eleni Foka, who has been the victim of continuous harassment and intimidation. Mrs. Foka has been recently physically attacked by agents of the occupation regime and she is still prevented from returning to her home in the occupied Karpass peninsula. Her crime was that she refused to sign an "identity card" of the illegal regime. Consequently, one of the three schools for the few remaining Greek Cypriot pupils in the Turkish occupied areas has been without a teacher since last September in flagrant violation of the Vienna III agreement of 1975 on the living conditions of the enclaved persons.

It is worth mentioning that the Rapporteur of the Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly, the late Lord Finsberg, after he had visited the enclaved persons stated that he was "shocked" by the living conditions of those persons, who "suffer gross abuses of human rights". The same view is shared by the current Rapporteur, Mr. Barsoni.

The cultural and religious heritage of the people of Cyprus has not escaped the destructive mania of the occupation regime. Archaeological sites and places of worship are being systematically destroyed, profaned and looted. Religious objects are sold on the international black market.

On the contrary, the Cyprus Government maintains and repairs mosques in the free areas, as it considers them to be part of the island's heritage. Many of the mosques in the free areas of Cyprus operate for the religious needs of the Turkish Cypriots as well as for the many Muslims who visit or reside in Cyprus.

Furthermore, the Secretary-General, in his report (S/1997/437 of 5 June 1997), stated that on 19 April 1997, 437 Turkish Cypriots were able to make a pilgrimage to the Hala Sultan Tekke mosque in Larnaca without any restrictions imposed by the Government. Unfortunately, he continues, a reciprocal pilgrimage to the church of Apostolos Andreas by 600 Greek Cypriots, scheduled for Orthodox Easter on 27 April, was cancelled at the last moment, as a result of the insistence of the illegal regime to exclude a number of persons.

It is indeed regrettable that Turkey chose to unleash a propaganda campaign at this very delicate moment when the Secretary-General and the international community are exerting efforts towards finding a just and viable solution of the Cyprus problem. The Cyprus Government is not interested in this kind of polemics. We are sincerely committed to work hard for building a common, happy and prosperous future for all the citizens for our Republic. We call on Turkey to facilitate the long-overdue solution of the Cyprus problem.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter could be circulated as a document of the Economic and Social Council, under agenda item 7 (d).

(Signed): Sotos Zackheos
Ambassador, Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Cyprus

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